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for instance, the wryneck and the nuthatch, shows how vastly superior the modern figures are as zoölogical illustrations. In the limited space of this volume much room could not be spared for pictures, but figures are given of representatives of most of the important groups. It may be disputed, however, whether the selection of species illustrated is the best one which could have been made for a book of this scope. Over one-third of the species figured are English, some of them the most common and best known birds with which every reader of the book is thoroughly familiar. It can hardly be doubted that a figure of *Podoces* would have been more valuable than that of the raven, or that *Pyrhuloxia* would have been preferable to the house sparrow. However, the author is probably not to blame in the matter. Editors and publishers usually have a way of interfering with his best intentions — concerning the illustrations.

The author expresses the hope that the work may be of real use, not only to the tyro in ornithology, but also to the traveler or resident in foreign parts interested in the subject, who, without time or opportunity for referring to the works of specialists, may yet need the aid of a concise account of the species likely to cross his path. There certainly was a need of such a book, and the present one meets it as well as it can be done in the limited space. From the treatment of the various groups I may add that the class of people most likely to derive the greatest benefit from the book is the traveling sportsman with an eye open for other birds and game in the strictest sense. But even the working naturalist, let alone the tyro, will find it an inexhaustible mine of solid ornithological facts.

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

**Blind-Fishes of the Caves.** — In *Science* for February 24, Dr. Carl H. Eigenmann describes a new genus of blind-fishes, which he finds a remarkable case of the convergence of characters. The species, first obtained by Mr. Garman from the caves of Missouri, was identified by him with *Typhlichthys subterraneus*, a blind species inhabiting the caves of the Ohio Valley. The two forms are almost identical superficially, but Dr. Eigenmann finds in fresh material abundant evidence that they are descended from distinct forms. The genus *Chologaster*, of the swamps of the South, is regarded as evidently the ancestor of *Typhlichthys*, but the new form from Missouri, called by Eigenmann *Troglichthys rosæ*, must have had a different ancestry in the same family. "Judging from the degree of degeneration of the eye, *Troglichthys* has lived in caves and done

without the use of its eyes longer than any other known vertebrate." "More than this, *T. rosæ* is probably the oldest resident in the region it inhabits."

The remaining genus of blind-fish, *Amblyopsis*, has ventral fins, and must therefore have had a distinct ancestry, as in the three other genera ventral fins are absent. All this points to an earlier time when the *Amblyopsidæ* were represented in the lowlands of the South by at least three distinct-eyed genera, but one of which, *Chologaster*, is now extant. Eigenmann regards *Troglichthys* as "in many ways the most interesting member of the North American fauna."

D. S. J.

**Trout of the Olympic Mountains.** — Some three years ago Rear-Admiral L. A. Beardslee brought from Crescent Lake, in the Olympic Mountains, two new forms or species, or subspecies, of trout, called by Dr. Jordan *Salmo crescentis* and *Salmo beardsleei*.

These forms are products of isolation and land-locking, the probable ancestor of both being the Steelhead trout, *Salmo gairdneri*. Lately Dr. Daniel G. Elliot, of the Field Columbian Museum, has made an extensive survey of these and other lakes in the same mountains. Other land-locked forms, also differentiated by isolation, are found, and these have been described in detail by Dr. Seth E. Meek in the publications of the Field Columbian Museum.

Dr. Meek recognizes *Salmo bathoiceter*, the long-headed trout from Lake Crescent; *Salmo clarki jordani*, the spotted trout of Lake Southerland; and *Salmo clarki declivifrons*, the salmon trout of Lake Southerland.

The question of the ultimate rank as species, subspecies, etc., of our western trout is one of the most difficult in taxonomy. Fortunately, the question is one of nomenclature only, for the real origin and relation of the various forms admit in no case of serious question.

In the same paper Dr. Meek describes new garter snakes from the same region as *Thamnophis leptocephalus olympia* and *Thamnophis rubrostriatus*.

D. S. J.

**Fishes of the Revillagigedos.** — In the *Report of the U. S. Fish Commission* for 1898, Dr. Jordan and Mr. R. C. McGregor give a list of the fishes taken by Mr. McGregor on the cruise of the *Wahlberg* about the Revillagigedos, off the west coast of Mexico.

The interesting feature of the collection is the large number of